

Add to your Family:
adopt a pet in need
See Page 3B

Santa shares
a few letters
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THE FRONTLINE

COMMUNITY & LEISURE

DECEMBER 17, 2009

Holiday Hayride 'cool' fun

Randy Murray
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Nearly 350 Family Members, mostly children, bundled up against the cold night air for this year's Holiday Hayride at Corkan Family Recreation Center, Dec. 11. Tractor-drawn wagons loaded with bales of hay carried wind-chilled passengers on a scenic tour of Christmas lights around Fort Stewart, but according to Corkan director Roni Stevens, all Corkan facilities were open with discount rates.

"We had people playing mini-golf, wall climbing, laser tag – everything," she said, acknowledging the cold weather probably affected the number of folks coming to the annual event, but said those hardy souls who did come braved the cold like it didn't bother them.

Christmas lights illuminated Cypress Creek Mini-Golf, Treehouse and the Rec Center, as well as Stewart Lanes. Inside the Rec Center, hot cocoa was available and in high demand. Outside, in one corner of the Stewart Lanes parking lot, kids gathered around an outdoor fireplace to roast marshmallows. Phoenix Riesner, 4, didn't like the sweet, sponging treat, but he said he enjoyed "burning them" for his mom, Sarah Riesner, and sister, Madeline, 6.

As Families waited in line for the hayride to begin, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation employees dressed as reindeer and bowling pin characters entertained children and adults. Cathy McRae, wife of Sgt. Maj. Robert McRae, FMWR, could not resist squeezing Rudolph's red nose. With much anticipation by shivering guests, the event finally got underway at 6 p.m. with the fire truck arrival of Santa Claus, who walked down the line of screaming children, shaking hands and giving hugs.

With these preliminaries out of the way, the tractors moved forward, and parents helped their little Eskimos board the wagon and take a seat on the hay. Blankets were available from FMWR employees, which helped fend off the icy wind as their loaded



Photos by Randy Murray

ABOVE: Family Members grab a seat on a hay bale for the annual Holiday Hayride at Corkan Family Recreation Center, Dec. 11.

RIGHT: Phoenix Riesner, 4, roasts a marshmallow for his mom, Sarah Riesner and 6-year-old sister, Madeline, prior to the start of the annual Holiday Hayride at Corkan Family Recreation Center, Dec. 11. Phoenix said he doesn't care for marshmallows, but he enjoys "burning them."



wagon moved down Gulick Avenue to begin their Christmas light tour.

Hunter Army Airfield's Holiday Hayride was postponed due to severe weather. It was re-scheduled for this Saturday at the Hallstrom Lake Recreation Area from 5-8 p.m. Cost is \$5 per Family for the hayride, but all FMWR facilities will be open at discount prices.

Stewart-Hunter Families given free Christmas trees

Kaytrina Curtis,
Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs
Bob Mathews
DFMWR Marketing

On one of the coldest days of the year thus far, more than 30 Soldiers were on standby just inside the gates at the auto crafts lot on Hunter Army Airfield, to aide awaiting Family Members pick and load one tree of their choice into their vehicle during the Trees for Troops giveaway, Dec. 11.

The trees were donated to show appreciation and to say "thank you" to those serving in the military and their Families, according to Trees for Troops Web site. Families were given one tree per military Family or single Soldier,

on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is the charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association.

Boldly braving the cold temperatures to pick out the perfect Christmas tree for the season, Trees for Troops patron Heather Delaney expressed her appreciation for the free tree.

"We love it. This is our third year doing it," said Delaney, "This is such a great thing that they are doing for us."

Delaney said this year it will take her a little more time to prepare the tree for the holiday.

"With us, it usually takes longer because when we are decorating the tree, he is usually taking ornaments off," she said referring to her toddler son Ryder.

Mail brings Spartan Soldier cheer for the holiday season

Pfc. Crystal M. O'Neal
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE, MAREZ, Iraq - The holiday season in the United States is a very festive time; light poles lining the streets are draped with decorations, Christmas trees and lights brighten homes across the country, and Families look forward to gathering and celebrating with their loved ones.

For deployed U.S. Soldiers, however, the holiday season is somewhat different. Instead of being with their Families and friends, they are in the combat zone, answering the call of duty.

Second Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers, deployed to northern Iraq to help stabilize and assist the Iraqi government,

may not be at home for the holidays this year, but they have found a way to keep their holiday spirits up – mail.

Staff Sergeant Jesse Maltba, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, said that the Soldiers who have already gotten their holiday packages are excited, and those waiting are bubbling with anticipation.

"Being gone at this time of the year is probably really hard for the Soldiers, especially the first-time deployers," said Staff Sgt. Maltba.

"Getting those pictures of the Family dinners and all the Family events is very uplifting and gives the Soldiers something to smile about. I got pictures from Halloween, Thanksgiving, and of the Christmas tree; I was very pleased with my package."

See TREES

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Kaytrina Curtis

Private First Class Joshua Williey, United States Army Garrison, helps Family Member Heather Delaney tie a tree to her vehicle during the Trees for Troops distribution, Dec. 11.

See CHEER

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DPW Environmental Recycling Program is holding a Shoe Drive in association with Soles 4 Souls shoe charity

Bring new or gently worn shoes to donation boxes at one of these locations:

**Fort Stewart PX
Newman Fitness Center
Hunter Army Airfield PX**

For more information, contact DPW Recycling Program:
**(912) 767-6573 or
(912) 767-8880**

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO TWILIGHT: NEW MOON

Sasha McBrayer
Frontline Contributor

Will I understand “New Moon” if I haven’t seen “Twilight”?

It isn’t difficult to figure out what’s going on while watching this sequel. Bella is an ordinary girl with an extraordinary boyfriend, Edward, a vampire. He stays with her despite his desire for her blood. Then he breaks up with her, and it causes the poor girl excruciating physical pain. What, you don’t remember your first heartbreak? That is when her best friend Jacob makes moves to win her heart. Things get complicated when Jake turns out to be a Native American shape shifter, aka, a werewolf. You won’t be totally lost if you didn’t see the first installment, but there will be a few gaps.

Is it true there is a 5th Twilight novel? Sort of. The unfinished book is called “Midnight Sun.” It is the story of “Twilight” written from Edward’s point of view. It is wonderful in that the reader gains deeper understanding of the Family Cullen. You can read it on the author’s Web site. Some cruel individual leaked it online without her permission and has killed her willingness to complete it at this time. Stephenie Meyer is, however, working on a “Twilight” graphic novel. What is the best way to keep updated about “Twilight” all the time? Go to www.stepheniemeyer.com. What was good about “New Moon”? A bigger budget and more grandiose



cinematic feel make this one a special treat! The soundtrack is also fantastic. Taylor Lautner wows audiences as Jacob Black, and Michael Sean and Dakota Fanning lend their better-known acting chops to the cast. Why isn’t “Victoria” returning? Actress Rachel Lefevre is scary as ever in “New Moon.” Her hair is finally the right color, too! Sadly, she was cut from the cast and replaced by Bryce Dallas Howard because she was filming another movie under the impression the schedules would not conflict. She has been vocal about how hurt this has made her. (**Spoiler Alert**) Why was Edward so useless against the Volturi? Edward can read minds. With that sort of anticipation, he should be very difficult

to beat down. I think Felix gave Edward a pounding not just to show audiences how tough the Volturi are, but because Alec, Jane’s brother, was also in the room. Alec’s ability is to block other special abilities. According to the Twilight Saga Wiki, he can “cut off a person’s senses completely.” What fun rumors have you heard about “New Moon”? I was able to attend TwiTour Atlanta and hang out with some of the actors from the series. There, Ashley Green, the actress who portrays Alice Cullen, told fans that there was only one infamous yellow sports car on the set. She lobbied to do the stunt driving herself and very nearly hit one of those stone walls in Italy! With the wrap around her head, she looks like Audrey Hepburn, who just so happens to be a hero of hers.



PRESENTS
TODAY THROUGH DEC. 20

Michael Jackson's This is it

Today — 7 p.m.
(Michael Jackson)
Michael Jackson's final film is a compilation of rehearsal, behind-the-scenes and other footage of the pop legend preparing for the "This Is It" concert series, which was to be held for 100 shows in London. High School Musical's Kenny Ortega directs and handles all of the choreography. Rated PG (suggestive choreography and scary images) 151 min.

The Men Who Stare at Goats

Friday — 7 p.m.
(George Clooney, Ewan McGregor)
A reporter, trying to lose himself in the romance of war after his marriage fails, gets more than he bargains for when he meets a Special Forces agent who reveals the existence of a secret, psychic military unit whose goal is to end war as we know it. The founder of the unit has gone missing and the trail leads to another psychic Soldier who has distorted the mission to serve his own ends. Rated R (language, some drug content and brief nudity) 94 min.

The Fourth Kind

Saturday — 5 p.m.
(Milla Jovovich, Elias Koteas)
In 1972, a scale of measurement was established for alien encounters. When a UFO is sighted, it is called an encounter of the first kind. When evidence is collected, it is known as an encounter of the second kind. When contact is made with extraterrestrials, it is the third kind. The

next level, abduction, is the fourth kind. This encounter has been the most difficult to document...until now. Structured unlike any film before it, *The Fourth Kind* is a provocative thriller set in modern-day Nome, Alaska, where—mysteriously, since the 1960s—a disproportionate number of the population has been reported missing every year. Despite multiple FBI investigations of the region, the truth has never been discovered. Here in this remote region, psychologist Dr. Abigail Tyler began videotaping sessions with traumatized patients and unwittingly discovered some of the most disturbing evidence of alien abduction ever documented. Rated PG-13 (violent/disturbing images, some terror, thematic elements, sexuality) 98 min.

Amelia
Sunday — 5 p.m.
(Hilary Swank, Richard Gere)
After becoming the first woman to fly across the Atlantic, Amelia was thrust into a new role as America's sweetheart - the legendary "goddess of light," known for her bold, larger-than-life charisma. Yet, even with her global fame solidified, her belief in flirting with danger and standing up as her own, outspoken woman never changed. She was an inspiration to people everywhere, from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the men closest to her heart: her husband, promoter and publishing magnate George P. Putnam, and her long time friend and lover, pilot Gene Vidal. In the summer of 1937, Amelia set off on her most daunting mission yet, a solo flight around the world that she and George both anxiously foresaw as destined, whatever the outcome, to become one of the most talked-about journeys in history. Rated PG (sensuality, language, thematic elements, smoking) 111 min.



Films are subject to availability. AAFES strives to show films according to the published schedule but reserves the right to reschedule, cancel or substitute showings as needed. For more information, call 767-3069 or go to www.aafes.com/ems/conus/stewart.htm.

Balfour Beatty Communities

Homes Available Now

Pro-Rated Rent Waived at Move In

Balfour Beatty Communities family housing offers two, three, and four bedroom homes available with no security deposits or application fees required. Pets welcome. Work minutes from home!

***SINGLE SOLDIERS:** check out our newest property on Fort Stewart!! Marne Point offers one and two bedroom homes on post for single soldiers E6 and up, Officers and Geo-bachelors. Pets welcome. No Wait at the Gate!

Move on post FREE if you've never lived on post before..

TO APPLY, VISIT THE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OFFICES
Fort Stewart located at 50 Austin Road, apply online at www.fortstewartfamilyhousing.com or call 912-408-2460. **Marne Point (Single Soldier Housing)** located at 335 Courage Loop, apply online at www.fortstewartssinglesoldierliving.com or call 912-408-2501. **Hunter Army Airfield** located at 1 Gannam Avenue, apply online at www.haaffamilyhomes.com or call 912-459-2133.



DFMWR Briefs

Fitness program opportunity for trainers

If you are into physical fitness, like people and want to help others by volunteering, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate has a win-win opportunity for you.

FMWR is making plans to increase the number and types of fitness classes it offers, but is lacking in certified physical fitness trainers.

You can help, and advance your own levels of fitness knowledge as the same time. If you would like to become a certified trainer, FMWR will cover your costs for certification in exchange for your commitment to teach a class for one year.

Classes being planned include Extreme Fitness, fitness for pregnant women, Intermediate Spinning, beginner fitness, Mommy and Me, personal training, introduction to gym classes for beginners, Belly Dancing, Zumba, Functional Fitness, Capoeira, Kukumba, Boot Camp, Body Pump, Pole Dancing, Barre, Hula Hoop and Tai Chi.

Want to help? Call Devin Bradley at 767-3031 for details and to get started.

Hunter Lanes grand opening today

Hunter Lanes Bowling Center, renovated at a cost of \$1.34 million to better serve Soldiers, their Families and others in the military community, will hold its grand opening at 2 p.m. today.

The bowling center is in building 1280 at Hunter Army Airfield. A ribbon-cutting will be followed by a tour of the facility. There will be free bowling and samples from the Ten Pin Grill in addition to prizes and games.

Work on the extensive renovation began in February. For more information, call 315-6279.

Holiday Hayride at Hunter Saturday

The Holiday Hayride at Hunter Army Airfield, postponed because of the threat of inclement weather, will be held from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, in the Hallstrom Lake Recreation Area (off Perimeter Road). Participants can see the season's lights as they enjoy the hayride. We'll also have caroling, outdoor movies, a marshmallow roast, hot chocolate, popcorn, a warm fire and more.

The hayride price is \$5 per Family. Sign up in advance at Equipment Checkout Center, building 8454 or Pass & Permit Office, building 1286.

For more information, call 315-9554 or 315-5163.

Celebrate New Year's at Corkan

Corkan Family Recreation Area offers a number of opportunities for customers of all ages to have some fun celebrating New Year's Eve. The fun includes some special prices.

Here's the lineup:

Cypress Creek Adventure Golf, building 448, will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the price will be \$1 per game/person all day. For more information, call 767-9884.

Cypress Sam's Treehouse, building 449, is open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission price for kids all day is \$1.25. For more information, call 767-9884.

Corkan Teen Recreation Center, building 438, offers fun activities for teens ages 13-18. Hours are 6-11 p.m., with a New Year's Eve celebration at 10 p.m. Call 767-3781 for more information.

Corkan Family Fun Center, building 449, will be open from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., with Family-fun activities including laser tag, roller skating and climbing. Matinee rates will be in effect and games and prizes will be offered. New Year's Eve celebration will be at midnight. Call 767-9884 for more information.

Stewart Lanes Bowling Center, building 450, also offers fun activities for the entire Family from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Matinee rates will be in effect and there will be games and prizes. The New Year's Eve celebration is at midnight. For more information, call 767-4273.

New Year's Day operating hours will be posted at each facility.

Spend New Year's Eve Bowl at Marne Lanes

Join us at Marne Lanes Bowling Center for a fun-filled New Year's Eve Bowl with special games throughout the evening and prizes awarded for different events. Cost \$2 per game and \$1.75 shoe rental.

Join us from 6 p.m.-midnight, Dec. 31 at Marne Lanes, building 402. For more information, call 767-4866.

and a balloon drop at midnight.

Dinner and breakfast will be available for purchase. For more information and details, call 368-2212.

Visit Tybee Island Light Station Museum

The registration deadline is Jan. 4 for a trip to Tybee Island, Ga., on Jan 9. You will depart mid-morning from Stewart Leisure Activities Center, building 443 for a day of fun at the Tybee Island Light Station and Tybee Museum.

Visit Georgia's oldest and tallest lighthouse. The cost is \$12 per person which includes transportation and admission.

For details, call Leisure Travel Office at 767-2841.

Sign-up deadline for Gatlinburg Trip

The registration deadline is Jan. 4 for the trip to Gatlinburg, Tenn., Jan. 15-17. Join Leisure Travel for a weekend of fun riding the mountains of Ober Gatlinburg Ski Resort by ski, snow-boarding or tubing. Experience winter in the Great Smoky Mountains.

The \$300 cost includes two-night stay with hotel accommodation for 1-4 people per room in the Westgate River Terrace Resort, bus transportation and one admission ticket to Hypnosis Theatre Comedy Show.

For details, call Leisure Travel Office at 767-2841.

Venison Cook-off Prizes Increased

Sign up now for the Second Annual Venison Cook-off to compete for cash prizes that have been increased since the contest was first announced.

The cook-off will begin at 5 p.m., Jan. 9, at Club Stewart, building 405. The entry deadline is Jan. 5. The cook-off is a part of the annual Wildlife Gala being held from 5-8 p.m.

Competition will be in three categories: deer chili, deer sausage and deer steaks. Prizes in each category, previously announced as \$60 for first, \$40 for second and \$20 for third, have been increased to \$100 for first, \$75 dollars for second and \$50 for third in each category.

The entry fee is \$7 and only one entry per Family is permitted. The fee must be paid prior to the cook-off. Prizes for the September-December Big Buck Contest results will be awarded at the gala, which will feature great food and wildlife displays. Winners of the Wildlife Photo Contest will be announced and the photos displayed.

For more information, call Stewart Pass & Permit at 435-8033 or Hunter at 315-5163.

See 'The Greatest Show on Earth'

Get ready to see the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus with Leisure Travel. Visit the Savannah Civic Center on Jan. 23 to see the Greatest Show on Earth. The cost is \$20 per person and includes admission and transportation. Children age 2 and up must have a ticket to enter. Register from now until Jan. 11.

For more information, call 767-2841.



*Pet of the
Week*
Looking for a good home...

Orian the dog

is one of the many homeless pets at the Fort Stewart animal shelter. The shelter has pets of all kinds, sizes and breeds in their care. If you are interested in adopting, call the Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic at 767-2842.

Join New Year's Eve party at Club Stewart

Make your plans now to celebrate the arrival of 2010 at Club Stewart.

The New Year's Eve Party is scheduled from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., Dec. 31.

Advance tickets are \$20 per person. On the day of the event, tickets will be \$25 per person for champagne, party favors, entertainment,

Christmas message illustrated

Chap. (Capt.) W. Michael Oliver
Battalion Chaplain
1/64 Armor, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID

It's very interesting to be spending another Christmas in Iraq. Although it is not fun to be separated from my wife and Family during the Christmas season, being in Iraq does give me a good perspective about Christmas. Frankly, it probably gives me a better perspective about Christmas, and let me briefly explain why.

I am a Christian chaplain serving in the United States Army. Specifically, my battalion is the 1/64 Armor Battalion, which is part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division. Presently, my Brigade is in Northern Iraq, and we continue to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and our specific

mission is continuing to work with the Iraqis in providing stability to their fledgling democracy. My unit's Soldiers are here to support freedom, and I am very proud of each and every one of them. For me, these Soldiers clearly illustrate the Christmas message.

These Soldiers have left their country, left their Family, loved ones and friends to be agents of freedom. This is the Christmas message because for the Christian, we believe that Christ Jesus left the splendor of heaven to come into this world to be an agent of freedom, the ultimate agent of freedom that restores God's relationship with humanity.

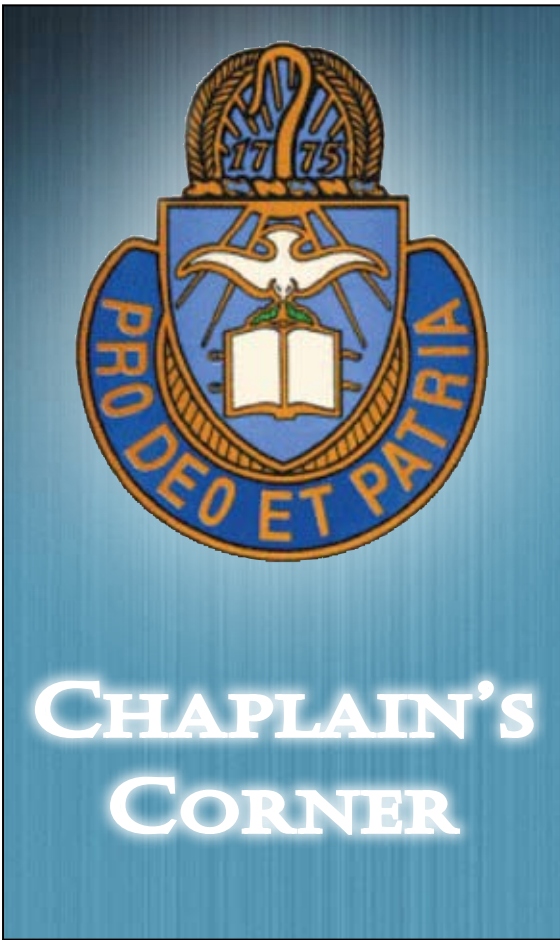
In the United States, we are all guilty, including me, of the materialism and busyness of the Christmas season. We focus on trees, stocking-

stuffers, presents, parties, etc., and this clouds us all from re-discovering the true meaning of Christmas.

When in the Middle East one truly realizes the sacrifice that Christ Jesus made by coming into this world. It was not a glamorous entry by any stretch of the imagination. However, He did it because He loves us. It is for this reason that I am joyful when I spend Christmas in Iraq.

As a chaplain, I provide religious support to all my Soldiers regardless of their religion. I truly do respect people of different faiths, and take very seriously my responsibility that all of my Soldiers get to exercise their freedom of religion. That being said, I am a Christian, and to all I wish you a very, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God bless!



Chapel Schedule

Fort Stewart

	Location	Time
Catholic		
Saturday Vigil Mass	Main Post Chapel	5 p.m.
Sunday Mass	Main Post Chapel	9 a.m.
Protestant		
Contemporary Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Main Post	11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage	11 a.m.
Kids' Church	School Age Services	10:45 a.m.
PWOC (Wednesday)	Main Post Chapel	9:30 a.m.

Islamic
Friday Jum'ah Marne 1:30 p.m.
Contact Wallead Luqman at wallead.luqman@us.army.mil

Jewish
Friday Heritage 11:30 a.m.
Contact Harold Crowther at (912) 332-2084

Latter-Day Saints
Sunday 220 Sandy Run Drive, Hinesville 9 a.m.

Hunter Army Airfield

Catholic		
Sunday Mass	Chapel	11 a.m.
Protestant		
Sunday Service	Chapel	9 a.m.

Kids Church Where God rocks

at Stewart School Age Services, across from
Diamond Elementary, 10:45 a.m. to noon,
Sunday; or at Hunter Chapel Fellowship Hall at
9:15 a.m., Sunday

For children grades K-5
Fort Stewart bus pick-up:

10:15 a.m. - Liberty and Hendrich, Liberty and Sicily, Liberty
and Anzio, Liberty and Rome

10:20 a.m. - Jasmine and Skyland Spruce, Jasmine and Liberty
Wood, Wild Fern and Golden Birch

10:30 a.m. - Schofield and Sansidro, Schofield and Hollandia,
Rogers and Argyle

10:40 a.m. - Naktong and New Guinea, Ormoc and New Guinea

10:50 a.m. - Marne Chapel

10:55 a.m. - Main Post Chapel

For more information, e-mail
fortstewartkidschurch@yahoo.com.

Fort Stewart Chapel Youth Ministry

*Fort Stewart Youth Ministry
exists to share "Biblical Truth"
with middle and high school age youth,
to disciple them in the Christian faith,
and to equip them for lives
of Christian service.*

*For weekly meeting information, go to
www.twitter.com/ftstewartyouth
or contact*

*Jerry Thompson,
Fort Stewart Youth
Ministry Coordinator
at (912) 920-9982.*

TEAM STEWART WEB SITE
www.stewart.army.mil

Weekday Catholic Schedule

Roman Catholic Daily Mass:
Main Post Chapel,
11:45 a.m., on Mon., Wed.-Fri.

Roman Catholic Confession:
Main Post Chapel,
4 – 4:30 p.m., Saturday



Courtesy of the Coastal Courier

Public invited to city scavenger hunt

Shopping local not only contributes to the vitality of the community, it may pay for your holiday shopping as well. Thirteen downtown Hinesville businesses are participating in the “Downtown Scavenger Hunt,” offering in-store prizes totaling over \$1,200 in value and a \$500 Shopping Spree - Grand Prize. Winning entries will be drawn at each participating location at the close of business, today..

Customers simply visit the participating businesses through today, “hunt” for the hidden ornament, and fill-out the entry form provided next to the ornament.

There is no purchase necessary and entries can be submitted once per visit, per person. Call (912) 877-4332 for more information.

BC offers scholarships

Scholarships to attend Benedictine Military School are available for public school students. Call (912) 644-7000 or visit the Web site at *www*.

TheBC400.com for more information.

Benedictine Military School is a Catholic, Benedictine college preparatory school, which forms and educates young men from diverse backgrounds, supports a deeper commitment to their faith, prepares them for life through a quality academic program and instills leadership skills through a JROTC program, athletics, extra-curricular activities and community service.

AASU hosts military appreciation nights

Active duty servicemembers, their Families, and military retirees get free admittance to two Military Appreciation Nights at Armstrong ASU. At 6 p.m. on Friday, AASU women play Edward Waters and at 8 p.m., AASU men play Mt. Olive.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday, AASU women play Tampa, and AASU men play Lenoir-Rhyne at 8 p.m.

Come and watch basketball at its best. For information, call (912) 257-8786.



Dec. 19 • Skidaway State Park

Bring your kids and pets to Skidaway State Park for pictures with Santa, then walk our enchanted luminary trail, do holiday arts and crafts and enjoy caroling on hayrides. There will be holiday treats, hot chocolate and warm cider while you explore our nature museum with its wildlife and fossil exhibits and live animals. Parking is \$5 per vehicle; picture with Santa is \$3.

Call (912) 598-2300 for more information.



Dec. 16-19 – Fiddler on the Roof, Savannah Lucas Theater, 8 p.m., \$29-\$49, 525-5050

Dec. 25 – 34th Annual Holiday Jazz Concert, Savannah Westin Resort, 5 p.m., \$20, 920-1317

Dec. 26-30 – Davenport House Candlelight Tours, Savannah Ga., 6-8:30 p.m., 236-8097, \$8-\$10,

Dec. 26-30 – The Beat Goes On, Hits of the 60s, 70s, 80s, Savannah Theater, 8 p.m., \$35, 233-7764

Dec. 31 – New Years Eve Party, Club Stewart, 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., 368-2212

Dec. 31 – New Years Eve Cruise, Savannah Riverboat Cruise, various packages, \$45-\$140,

Reservations

232-6404

festivalsandevents.com/festival.php?state=GA

www.sciway.net/calendar.html

www.w4www.org

web.georgia.org/events/

www.connectstewarhunter.com/

www.stewart.army.mil

TREES

from Page 1B



Photos by Bob Mathews

ABOVE: Sergeant Angel Nieves, 3/7 Inf., secures a Christmas tree to the roof of his car during the Trees for Troops distribution, Dec. 11. He and his wife, Sgt. Nakisha Nieves, HHC 4th IBCT, were the first to choose a tree at Fort Stewart.

TOP LEFT: Chris Dent, Recreation Delivery System coordinator and BOSS Program Manager, hands a Christmas tree to Bobby Mize, an FMWR Supply employee. The trees were unloaded Dec. 10, at building 443 on Fort Stewart, for Trees for Troops distribution the following day. The trees were donated by the Christmas Spirit Foundation (representing Christmas tree growers/distributors) and FedEx.

LEFT: Soldiers and Family Members place their Christmas trees in their vehicles for transport home. A total of 453 trees were given out at Fort Stewart and Hunter during the annual Trees for Troops event.

James Ellison, FMWR Special Events Coordinator at Fort Stewart, said the trees donated by the Christmas Spirit Foundation (representing Christmas tree growers/distributors) and FedEx “were beautiful, freshly cut trees and went very quickly.”

Soldiers from the BOSS program at Fort Stewart helped to unload the trees when they arrived and played a role in their distribution as well,

Ellison said.

“We tied the BOSS program to the Trees for Troops program in the beginning because it was such a good program for them to be involved in, and they have been the primary support group for all the Trees for Troops programs ever since,” he said.

A total of 453 trees were given out at Fort Stewart and Hunter during the annual Trees for Troops event. Ellison said 125 trees were provided to Hunter

for distribution.

First to choose at the Fort Stewart distribution were Sgt. Angel Nieves, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and his wife, Sgt. Nakisha Nieves, Headquarters, Headquarters Company 4th IBCT.

A wait of more than an hour in chilly temperatures paid off, Sgt. Nakisha Nieves said.

BOSS Vice President, Staff Sgt.

Krishna Gillis, U.S. Army Garrison, said helping the Family Members load their trees is a way for the single Soldiers to give back. “We help them get their trees loaded because they show us so much support during the year,” she said about Soldiers helping Families.

Last year the Christmas Spirit Foundation donated more than 17,000 trees to servicemembers and their Families.

CHEER

from Page 1B



According to Chief Warrant Officer Charmaine Hilliard, HHC, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, Soldiers’ mail flow has increased heavily since the beginning of the holiday season and even more now that Christmas is right around the corner.

“We pick up mail from the Soldiers every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and the amount of mail has really increased here lately. All of the Soldiers’ loved ones are trying to get their packages in the mail prior to Christmas so the Soldiers can open them up on the big day,” said CWO Hilliard.

The chief warrant officer said that

though the mail clerks and mail handlers from each battalion may feel as if their job is small or unimportant, it is actually one of the most important jobs throughout the deployment.

“Getting mail is something all Soldiers appreciate. Soldiers may be feeling down, but when they get a chance to actually see some of that love coming from back home, whether it’s their Families or their comrades back in the rear, it really lifts them up,” said Chief Warrant Officer Hilliard. “Mail is a big morale booster, and the higher the Soldiers’ morale, the better they will do in reference to the mission and coming home safely.”

Pfc. Crystal M. O’Neal

Specialist Toby Hackshaw, HHC, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, downloads boxes of mail to be passed out to Spartan Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq, Dec. 9.

Dear Santa.....

Bob Mathews

FMWR Marketing Publicity Specialist

Many of the hundreds of letters written to Santa during the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield could have been written by any child, anywhere in the world.

But these were written by children of Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and 3rd Infantry Division Warriors who are defending America thousands of miles away. The Warriors won't be home for Christmas.

The children's letters offer a glimpse into their tender, divided hearts — on the one hand filled with barely contained excitement and anticipation of knowing Santa will visit soon, and on the other a sadness that Daddy or Mommy won't be there to share the wonder of Christmas Day. This year, Santa shared a few of the letters from his very full mailbox...

"Please bring me lots of cars, lots of airplane toys," wrote Alex, careful to add the word "Love" with his signature. "We will give you cookies when it's Christmas. Please keep my Daddy safe in Afghanistan. God is with you, Santa. Good night."

Giovanni wrote, "I have been a good boy and wish for my daddy's safety and a Batman figurine."

Terrell said, "Santa, I want some games, DSi, baseball bat and for my dad and all the Soldiers (of the) 603rd (Aviation Support Battalion) are safe and come home soon."

Dylan, S, got right to the point in his letter to Santa: "Bring Daddy home safe. Thank you."

Little Brianna did the same: "Please bring Daddy home. Love. Brianna."

The children sat in the warm, comfortable surroundings of Santa's "study" at Club Stewart on Dec. 3 and at Hunter Club Dec. 7 as they carefully considered their hopes and dreams for this special Christmas season.

Volunteers rang a bell and made the youngsters feel extra special as they placed their letters to Santa in a "mailbox" set up just for them.

Not every letter revealed the children's concerns:

"I want a puppy, Santa," wrote Cody.

"I would like a stuffed bear and a hug," another child stated.

"I want a dog and a sister and brother" wrote one youngster, who signed the letter simply, "The End."

One child's heart was with the homeless. "I would like for homeless people to have shelter. People that don't have food need food."

Another, Farrah, was obviously quite taken, not only with Santa but with Mrs. Claus too, who visited the Stewart and Hunter clubs with her husband and circulated among the guests at the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation events.

"I took a picture with Mrs. Closs (sic) and you," she wrote. "And I think you rock!"

And, in an age where there is no shortage of skeptics, Santa got a solid vote of confidence in a number of letters.

One said it this way:

"To: Santa

Can I please have a dragon, remote car, and a game for my DS, please? People say that you are not real but I believe in you. I hope we have a great Christmas because Dad is gone.

Love,

Dallas"

Special Deliveries

Provided by Winn Army Hospital



December 5

• **Devon Reese Woerner**, a boy, 5 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Spc. John Paul Woerner and Rebecca Ann Woerner.

December 7

• **Niaylah Lynette Roberts**, a girl, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Christopher Arkel Roberts and Pfc. Erika Nicole Roberts.

December 8

• **Noah Hurley Ardis**, a boy, 8 pounds, 1 ounce, born to Spc. Kenneth Ardis Jr. and Maura Jayne Ardis.

December 9

• **Killian Joseph Zampedri**, a boy, 7 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Pfc. Jedediah D. Zampedri and Jennifer Zampedri.

December 10

• **Razaria Lenae Bagley**, a girl, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Sgt.

Robert L. Bagley and Kristanya Jessica Lee Mummert. Bagley.

• **Annaliese Marie Garber**, a girl, 5 pounds, 1 ounce, born to Spc. David Lewis Garber and Karen Dianna Garber.

• **Eboni Abiguel Marrero**, a girl, 5 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Marrero Jr. and Corene L. Marrero.

• **Jayden Nicolas McCullough**, a boy, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Tyrone C. McCullough and Sonja N. McCullough.

• **Alexandria Dawn Mummert**, a girl, 7 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Spc. Shane Nicholas Mummert and

• **Robert Otis Triplett**, a boy, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Sgt. Joseph Drew Triplett and Cpl. Andrea N. Triplett.

December 11

• **Tycen Richard McDonald**, a boy, 7 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Sgt. Richard McDonald and Alaina McDonald.

December 12

• **Sarah Destiny Owens**, a girl, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Pfc. Dannie Owens and Sheina Owens.

• **Tyshawn Lamar Gordy**, a boy, 6 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Spc. Sylvester Gordy and Spc. Tina Gordy.

Army Community Service



ACS classes are free and open to active duty, Army Reserve, National Guard, Family Members, retirees and Department of Army Civilians. ACS is a member of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, proudly serving America's military.

Join the foreign-born spouse network

Foreign-born spouses are invited to meet members from various countries to discuss the American way of life, develop friendships, and learn about the many resources available to make your new life experience positive at ACS-Hunter beginning at 11 a.m., Dec. 21. Children are always welcome at spouse groups, and feel free to invite a friend. For information on spouse groups, call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter.

Join 'baby bootcamp'

Men who are expecting a baby or have children up to age two are invited to an interactive class where you'll learn the correct way to hold, diaper, dress, and bathe your little one. Challenge the stereotype and take the initiative to be a hands-on Dad. Mom will be thrilled, and you will reap the reward of building a special bond with your child that will last a lifetime. Please call 767-5058/5059 for the 4 p.m. class at Stewart, today.

Get help with your job search

Your Employment Readiness team offers a variety of free workshops to help you succeed in your job search. Job Hunting 101 offers instruction on various topics in the job search process to include resume writing, networking, interviewing, and dressing for success at ACS-Hunter at 1 p.m., today. Resumix: Insider's Tips teaches you the insider's tips for seeking a job with the federal government, such as entering your resume in the system, searching jobs, and maximizing your skills for the most impact, at ACS-Stewart at 1 p.m., today. Interviewing: How to Work a Job Fair gives valuable instruction on how to prepare yourself for a job interview and what to do at a job fair at ACS-Stewart at 1 p.m., Friday. For information and to reserve a seat, call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart.

For a current schedule of employment classes and to register, call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter. Also request a personal employment counseling session and let us help you prepare to find the job you want.

Attend EFMP support group

Everyone who has a Family Member enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program is invited to "It's An Exceptional Life," a support group where you can meet, share experiences and participate in educational seminars.

The group meets at the Fort Stewart ACS, building 86, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 30. Bring your children to Parents' Night Out, offered at both Fort Stewart and Hunter locations on the same night. Children will enjoy supervised activities at the CYS Child Development Center from 6 to 9 p.m. while you attend the support group meeting.

Children must be registered with CYS and also enrolled in EFMP to participate, and advance sign-up is required. Please call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter for more information.

Get more from your paycheck

Your Financial Readiness team introduces a fast-track approach to getting more out of your paycheck, a new class that is a pre-requisite to most financial counseling appointments. We'll work with you individually in a group setting and teach you exactly how to create and maintain an accurate and effective personal budget. You will also learn how to evaluate your financial situation, establish personal goals, develop a personal cash flow, and the importance of involving the entire Family in the recordkeeping and budgeting process.

If you need more, individual financial counseling appointments can be made at the completion of class. Call 767-5058/5059 to register for the class at Stewart, now offered each Tuesday from 1-3 p.m.

Welcome packet available

Now available on the Team Stewart Web site, a newcomer's welcome packet provides a wealth of information

about the Stewart-Hunter installation, including cost of living, population, child care, schools, youth services, housing, employment, post services, medical services, and more. To access the welcome packet, visit www.stewart.army.mil (click on the NEWCOMER tab at the top of the page, then select WELCOME PACKET).

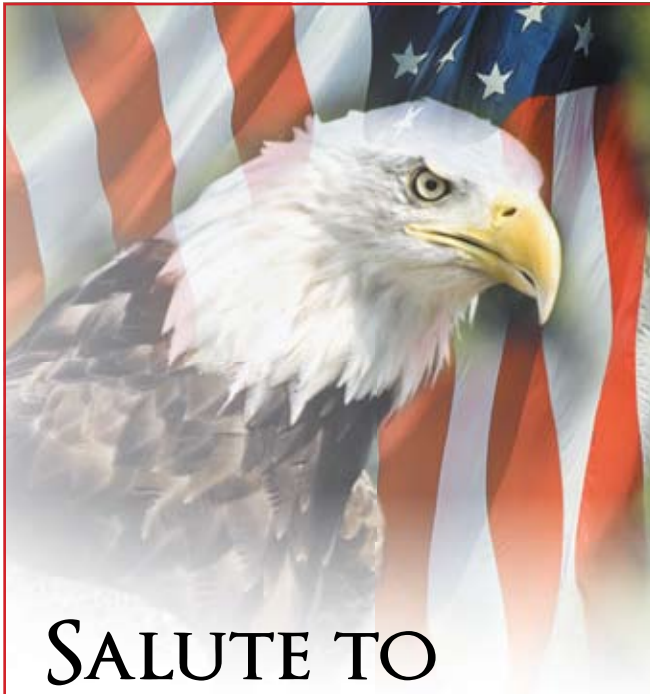
Local maps, telephone directories, and current event calendars are available from your Relocation Readiness specialists located at your local Army Community Service Office. For more information, call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter.

Newcomer's briefings available

A Newcomer's Welcome/Family Orientation is offered at Fort Stewart each Tuesday and Thursday. Presented by the Army Community Service Outreach Program, the orientation provides an overview of the many agencies, events, and programs available to help with your transition to the area – and offers an opportunity to meet other new Families and Service Members. The Outreach staff can also assist with any issue or concern you may have as a newcomer. Please call 767-2467 to register. Also ask about child care.

View ACS calendar of classes online

Visit the Team Stewart Web site to view the current ACS calendar of classes. Visit www.stewart.army.mil (from the FAMILY menu, select Army Community Service, and click on the link to view our current calendar). With more than 40 classes and workshops available, the online calendar is your one-stop source for complete class listings.



SALUTE TO VETERANS

America owes a debt to her veterans that can never be repaid.

Hardship. Separation. Sacrifice.

Go see their stories at
SpecialProjects.CoastalCourier.com/VeteransDay.html
CoastalCourier.com | BryanCountyNews.net
ConnectStewartHunter.com

